Sick Small Scale Sugar Industries

3745. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick small scale sugar industries in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar upto March, 1991; and

(b) the assistance being provided by the Government to revive these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The Vacuum pan sugar factories which are controlled by the Central Government do not come under the category of small scale industries. The Khandsari & Gur industry are controlled by the respective State Governments and information regarding the number of sick units in this sector is not available with the Central Government.

[*English*]

Profitability of Public Sector Undertakings

3746. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep fall in the profitability of the Public Sector Undertakings during the first half of 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government have recently contemplated any concrete measures to improve the functioning of public sector undertakings to make them more profitable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P K. THUNGON): (a) 181 Central Public Sector Undertakings earned a net profit of Rs. 481.28 crores during the first half year of 1990-91 against a net profit of Rs. 1103.25 crores earned by 176 enterprises during the corresponding period of 1989-90.

(b) Some of the main reasons for decline in profitability are; Increase in Iron & Steel Prices not commensurate with increase in costs for inputs, heavy drop in production due to power failure; strike at Bombay Refinery (Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd) and flooding of sub-station 132 KVA Vizag Refinery due to cyclonic storm in May, 1990, drop in sales and also charging of operating expenses of Rs. 55 crores from Maharashtra Gas Craker Complex (Indian Petro-Chemicals Corporation) which is yet to start commercial production, grounding of A-320 aircraft, adverse change in exchange rate of US $ and the increase in landing and navigational charges by Airport Authority (Indian Airlines) uncovered gap between price and costs of ships and high interest liability (Cochin Shipyard) etc.

(c) and (d) Improving working of the Central Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process. Enterprises specific steps are taken by the concerned Administrative Ministry/ Department. Some of the measures taken are product-mix, technological upgradation, improved maintenance management practices, energy conservation, modernisation and rehabilitation, organisational restructuring, introduction of MOU, etc.

Modern Pesticide Plant of Hindustan Insecticides at Eloora, Cochin

3747. PROF. K. V. THOMAS Will the PRIME MIISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have a modern pesticide plant of the Hindustan Insecticides at Eloor, Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. has a unit at Eloor near Cochin for the production of Insecticides such as DDT, BHC and Endosulfan and their formulations. At present there is no proposal to have any other plant at this site.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on use of Mustard Oil

3748. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban the use of mustard oil for the manufacture of vanaspati;

(b) if so, the period for which the ban is proposed to be imposed;

(c) whether the vanaspati manufacturers have requested to shorten the period of ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has banned the use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati from 1-8-91 and expect it to continue till the arrival of next rabi crop.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to provide raw-mustard oil to consumers for direct consumption at a reasonable price, situation can be reviewed only after the next rabi crop is harvested.

Setting up of Model Slaughter Houses

3749. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Leather Research Institute proposes to set up some model slaughter houses in rural areas with the assistance from some foreign organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such a model slaughter house in Sikkim; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Central Leather Research Institute, Madras has only drawn up plans for a model rural slaughter house in Andhra Pradesh with the assistance of International Development Research Centre (IDRC, to study its technical and economic viability

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Fertilizer Subsidy

3750. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of fertilizer subsidy withdrawn by the Government in the current budget;

(b) the percentage of increase likely to be registered in the prices of fertilizers by this action;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the adverse effect on the agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Budget provision for subsidy for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 4000 crores as compared to a provision of Rs. 4400 crores in the Revised Estimates for 1990-91.

(b) Some low analysis fertilizers like Ammonium Chloride, Ammonium Sulphate, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Sulphate of Potash have been decontrolled and the prices of other fertilizers have been increased by 30% on an average by the Government.

(c) The increase in the price is not expected to affect the agricultural production adversely.

(d) Question does not arise.